

# EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

YOUR GUIDE TO HIGH QUALITY TEACHING, LEARNING & LEADERSHIP IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Event Catalog  
January 23, 2019  
10:00 A.M.



New Jersey Department of Education in partnership  
with Long Branch Public Schools



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

LAMONT O. REPOLLET, ED.D.  
*Commissioner*

January 23, 2019

**T**hank you for participating in The New Jersey Department of Education's first virtual conference, "Expanding Opportunities: Your Guide to High-Quality Teaching, Learning & Leadership in Early Childhood." A special thank you to our partners at Long Branch School District for helping bring this conference to fruition and their commitment to providing high-quality preschool programming to New Jersey's families.

Today's series of professional development sessions will equip educational leaders in New Jersey's preschool education programs with tools to provide children access to a high-quality preschool learning environment that exposes them to experiences and interactions that keep them engaged and learning. High-quality early education can improve outcomes, narrow achievement gaps, and convey long-term benefits for children in school and life. As the state's education agency, we expect administrators and educational leaders that are overseeing our preschool programs to have the proper qualifications and training specific to early childhood education. It is also our expectation that preschool teachers will be purposeful in building a classroom community, using positive approaches to classroom management, encouraging children's ability to self-regulate and adapting the environment and routines based on the strengths, needs and interests of all children.

Thanks for all you do for our youngest learners. We wish you and your staff continued success in the implementation of your preschool programs.

Sincerely,

Tonya Coston  
New Jersey Department of Education  
Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Early Childhood Education



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Expanding Opportunities: Your Guide to High Quality Teaching,  
Learning & Leadership in Early Childhood



# Schedule of Events



**10:00 A.M.**

LIVE INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME WITH DR. SALVATORE & TONYA COSTON

*15 MINUTES*

**10:15 A.M.**

FIRST VIDEO OBSERVATION SESSION

*10 MINUTES*

**10:30 A.M.**

LIVE DEBRIEFING FOR FIRST SESSION

*15 MINUTES*

**10:45 A.M.**

SECOND VIDEO OBSERVATION SESSION

*10 MINUTES*

**11:00 A.M.**

LIVE DEBRIEFING FOR SECOND SESSION

*15 MINUTES*

**11:15 A.M.**

LIVE CLOSING WITH DR. SALVATORE & TONYA COSTON

*10 MINUTES*



# Session Topics



Learning Environment



Social & Emotional Development



Play



Gross Motor & Transitions



English Language Arts



Mathematics



Science



Coaching





# Learning Environment

Children learn from discovering their surroundings. Learn to design a high quality, stimulating classroom for your earliest learners. Based on the ECERS-3 criteria, exploration, equity, comfort and accessibility, are all essential elements of an early childhood learning environment.

Watch Now!

## “IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK: A GUIDE TO CREATING AN INTERACTIVE CLASSROOM” BY



KERRY N HUGHLEY



TRACEY MCMAHON



MELANIE ROVINSKY

### Learning Environment Elements

- Interest centers: books, blocks, cozy area, dramatic play, fine motor, science
- Quiet and noisy areas are separated by physical space
- Individualized children’s artwork on display
- Accessible materials and activities
- Music and movement
- Promoting acceptance of diversity



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# Social & Emotional Development

Social and emotional development is dependent on interactions with others. The relationships that children have with their teachers and peers set the stage for academic success. Strategies will be shared to support children's social and emotional development throughout the day.

Watch Now!

## "EXPRESS YOURSELF: A GUIDE TO PROMOTING SELF-REGULATORY PRACTICES" BY



ASHLEY DZIUBA



KRISTIN KELLY



SHANNON RIDILLA

### Social & Emotional Development New Jersey Preschool Teaching & Learning Standards

- Children demonstrate self-confidence - Standard 0.1
- Children demonstrate self-direction - Standard 0.2
- Children identify and express feelings - Standard 0.3
- Children exhibit positive interactions with other children and adults - Standard 0.4
- Children exhibit pro-social behaviors - Standard 0.5



MATTHEW JOHNSON



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# Play

Learning is enhanced when children play because it is based on their interests. This interdisciplinary time provides opportunities for teachers to integrate content based on planned interactions and teachable moments. Play is at the heart of our preschoolers' day so take a look at how our children's learning is maximized during this time.

Watch Now!

## "READY SET PLAY: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY-BASED LEARNING" BY



ELAINE ATKINSON



JENNIFER RETTINO



LEAH ROBERTS

### Play Elements

- Enthusiasm and engagement
- Role-play with peers
- Oral language/vocabulary development
- Problem-solving
- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- Integration of content



RENEE WHELAN



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# Gross Motor & Transitions

Young children need physical activity which helps them learn better in school. Watch how our teachers use gross motor time in addition to transitions to support children's coordination as well as their cognitive skills.

Watch Now!

## "LET'S GET PHYSICAL: STUDENT SUCCESS IN A KINESTHETIC CLASSROOM" BY



MARIANNE CARR



ANTHONY DESANTIS



JESSICA WEGELIN

### Health, Safety, & Physical Education - New Jersey Preschool Teaching & Learning Standards

- Children develop competence and confidence in activities that require gross-and fine-motor skills w- Standard 2.4
- Develop and refine gross-motor skills - Standard 2.4.1
- Use objects and props to develop spatial and coordination skills - Standard 2.4.3



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# English Language Arts

Preschool standards in ELA are aligned from preschool through third grade and include emergent reading, writing, listening and speaking. Watch our highlighted ELA teaching practices that demonstrate exposure to high quality literature, writing, vocabulary, comprehension, phonological awareness and more.

Watch Now!

## “LETTERS, SOUNDS & WORDS, OH, MY!: MAKING CONNECTIONS FOR EMERGENT READERS AND WRITERS”

BY



RACHEL DATRE



JEANINE FASANO



TRACEY MCMAHON

### English Language Arts - New Jersey Preschool Teaching & Learning Strands

- Reading - Literature
- Reading - Informational Text
- Reading - Foundational Skills
- Writing
- Speaking & Listening
- Language



LINDA ALSTON-MORGAN



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# Mathematics

Our young learners are exposed to mathematics throughout the day. See how early childhood mathematics can be fostered in daily routine as well as structured activities. This math journey will give you fun ideas on how to support your children's learning in relation to the mathematical trajectories.

Watch Now!

## "THE MARVEL OF MATHEMATICS: DEVELOPING EARLY LOGIC AND REASONING" BY



KAITLIN BAIATA



NATALIE BAUER



HEATHER O'NEILL

### Mathematics - New Jersey Preschool Teaching & Learning Standards

- Children begin to demonstrate an understanding of number and counting - Standard 4.1
- Children demonstrate an initial understanding of numerical operations - Standard 4.2
- Children begin to conceptualize measurable attributes of objects and how to measure them - Standard 4.3



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# Science

It has been said that children are naturally born scientists. Our goal for science instruction is to continue to fuel their innate curiosity. The experiments performed by children often resembles play. We encourage learners to think scientifically while also seeing the natural connection between science and the engineering processes. The desire to explore their own world provides ample opportunity to build skills in vocabulary, mathematics, speaking and listening.

Watch Now!

## “LITTLE SCIENTISTS: TEACHING STUDENTS TO INVESTIGATE THEIR WORLD” BY



FELICIA CLARK



PATRICE PEREZ



CATHERINE SVENDA

### Science - New Jersey Preschool Teaching & Learning Standards

- Children develop inquiry skills - Standard 5.1
- Children observe and investigate matter and energy - Standard 5.2
- Children observe and investigate living things - Standard 5.3
- Children observe and investigate the Earth - Standard 5.4
- Children gain experience in using technology - Standard 5.5



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# Coaching

The New Jersey Department of Education has recognized the importance of supporting teachers in and outside of the classroom. Consequently, professionals from varied backgrounds have been designated to serve as instructional coaches and intervention specialists. This session will explore the roles and responsibilities of early learning support professionals (instructional coaches, PIRT members).

Watch Now!

## “THE GUIDE ON THE SIDE: BUILDING CAPACITY IN TEACHING & LEADERSHIP” BY



TRACEY CISTARO



SIOBHAN CURRY



MARY KURDYLA



ANA RUGO



KIMBERLY WALKER



AISHA WICKES

### Coaching Elements

- Reflect on data and set goals with teachers/families
- Plan strategies for improvements through the use of structured observation tools
- Demonstrate lessons
- Recognize accomplishments
- Discuss issues in a supportive climate
- Grow professionally together by using research-based resources



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# A Special Thank You To...



**DR. MICHAEL SALVATORE**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



**DR. ROBERTA FREEMAN**  
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER



**DIEGO DEASSIS**  
SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER



**NEIL MASTROIANNI**  
EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY  
SPECIALIST



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